Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 204052 TOSEC 090160 ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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TO THE SECRETARY THROUGH HABIB FROM NEA SOBER, ACTING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: PRESS GUIDANCE ON PLO OFFICE IN WASHINGTON (S/S NO. 7722029)

1. ISSUE FOR DECISION

HOW TO ANSWER PRESS QUESTIONS ON ADMINISTRATION ATTITUDE TOWARD AN OPENING OF PLO OFFICE IN WASHINGTON.

2. ESSENTIAL FACTORS

PRESS HAS BEGUN TO FOCUS ON IMPLICATIONS OF MC GOVERN AMENDMENT TO STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION BILL REGARDING ADMISSION OF PLO MEMBERS TO UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY IN STAFFING PLO INFORMATION OFFICE HERE WHICH WAS REGISTERED LAST AUTUMN BUT NEVER OPENED. AT THAT TIME THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THOUGH NO LEGAL BARS EXISTED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVING A PLO INFORMATION OFFICE, WE DID NOT THINK THE TIME "PROPITIOUS" FOR OPENING ONE, FROM A POLICY POINT OF VIEW. GIVEN THE PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THIS SUBJECT LAST AUTUMN AND THE CHANGES NOW MANDATED BY LAW ON HOW WE DEAL WITH VISAS FOR PERSONS AFFILIATED WITH THE PLO AND OTHER PROSCRIBED ORGANIZATIONS, WE ANTICIPATE A QUESTION ON HOW

THE ADMINISTRATION NOW FEELS ABOUT A PLO INFORMATION OFFICE. WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING ANSWER TO ANTICIPATED QUESTION, SUBJECT TO YOUR APPROVAL, FOR THE SPOKESMAN'S USE IF NEEDED IN FRIDAY NOON BRIEFING.

3. PROPOSED TEXT

Q. DO YOU THINK THE TIME IS NOW PROPITIOUS FOR OPENING A PLO INFORMATION OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, CONTRARY TO LAST AUTUMN WHEN YOU SAID IT WAS NOT?

A.--AS WE HAVE SAID, FROM A LEGAL POINT OF VIEW THERE IS NO BAR TO THE PLO'S OPENING AN INFORMATION OFFICE HERE, PROVIDING IT OBSERVES OUR LAWS AND MAKES PERIODIC REPORTS OF ITS ACTIVITIES AND FINANCIAL DISBURSEMENTS. SUCH AN OFFICE HAS BEEN REGISTERED SINCE LAST YEAR, BUT OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN ACTUALLY OPENED.

--APART FROM THE LEGAL QUESTIONS, OUR ATTITUDE REMAINS THAT IT IS NOT PROPITIOUS AT THIS TIME FOR THE PLO TO OPEN AN INFORMATION OFFICE IN WASHINGTON.

--THE POLICY OF THIS GOVERNMENT ON CONTACTS WITH THE PLO REMAINS AS STATED BY THE PRESIDENT AUGUST 8. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. RECOMMENDATION.

THAT YOU CLEAR THE PROPOSED ANSWER.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

5. DRAFTED BY: NEA/GFSHERMAN

CLEARANCE: D:

APPROVAL: NEA:SSOBER

CHRISTOPHER

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Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009

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